AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The following paragraphs [00367] and [0419] will replace all prior versions of paragraphs [00369] and [0419] with regard to the published application:

[0367] Nuclear factor kappa B (NF-κB) is a dimeric protein complex occurring in many tissue cells and in particular in blood cells. NF-κB takes on a particular role in the control of the expression of genes which have an NF-κB binding sequence (5′-GGGPuNNPyPyCC-3′) (SEQ ID NO. 3) in their promoter sequence. To this extent, NF-κB is a transcription factor. The physiological activity of NF-κB in the control of gene expression, however, is subject to a regulation principle, in which NF-κB is released from a complex with proteins of the IκB class in order to be translocated as a transcription factor to the cell nucleus resulting in gene activation. The regulation principle for the release of active NF-κB from a complex with the protein IκB is still not known in detail.

[0419] The NF-κB decoy that can be used in the present invention may be any compound that specifically antagonizes the NF-κB binding site of the chromosomes and includes but is not limited to nucleic acids and their analogs. As preferred examples of the NF-κB decoy, the present invention may utilize NF-kB decoy comprising one or more copies of oligonucleotides CCTTGAAGGGATTTCCCTCC (SEQ ID NO. 4) and GGAACTTCCCTAAAGGGAGG (SEQ ID NO. 5), preferably, the NF-kB decoy are described as oligonucleotides containing the nucleotide sequence of GGGATTTCCC (SEQ ID NO. 6). Preferably, the NF-kB decoy oligonucleotide is a double-stranded 22 bp oligonucleotide (5′-AGTTGAGGGGACTTTCCCAGGC-3′) (SEQ ID NO. 7) (Promega).